



City of Miami Springs, Florida

The Miami Springs City Council held a **SPECIAL MEETING** in the Council Chambers at City Hall on Wednesday, August 25, 2010, at 7:00 p.m.

1. Call to Order/Roll Call

The meeting was called to order at 7:03 p.m.

The following were present:

Mayor Billy Bain
Vice Mayor George V. Lob
Councilwoman Jennifer Ator
Councilman Bob Best
Councilman Dan Espino

Also Present:

City Manager James R. Borgmann
Assistant City Manager Ronald K. Gorland
City Attorney Jan K. Seiden
Chief of Police Peter G. Baan
Finance Director William Alonso
Comptroller Alicia E. González
Public Works Director Robert T. Williams
Human Resources Director Loretta M. Boucher
Golf Director Michael W. Aldridge
Golf Superintendent Sandy Pell
Recreation Director Omar L. Luna
City Planner Richard E. Ventura
City Clerk Magalí Valls

2. Invocation: Councilman Espino offered the invocation.

Salute to the Flag: The audience participated.

3. Recommendation that Council Award RFP # 09-09/10 to Aetna, the Lowest Responsible Bidder, as the City's Health Insurance Carrier, for a Total Premium of \$1,039,378 for the Fiscal Year 2010-2011

City Manager Borgmann read the title of the award. He stated that bids were solicited with three companies responding; one bid was considered non-responsive because it was not a B+ company. The specifications asked for at least B+ and above.

There is a basic decrease in the total amount of \$91,441 less than the Av-Med proposed increase, according to Mr. Borgmann. Av-Med came in with a 12.4% increase and Aetna beat that proposal. He noted corrections to the memorandum that was included in the agenda packet noting that it is actually a 3.75% increase over the current year or approximately \$107,000 less than the amount budgeted at the 20% level.

Insurance Consultant Robert Shafer stated that he was pleased with the Av-Med renewal that came in at a 12.4% increase. The fact that Aetna came in with a 3.75% increase over the current premium is spectacular in regard to the cost savings and the employees previously were covered by Aetna so they are familiar with the network and the physicians. In addition, Aetna has good size and capability backup and it makes financial sense to recommend Aetna who will be offering the HMO and the POS plans. The employees should not see a difference in benefits and the transition should be smooth.

To answer Councilman Best's question, Mr. Shafer responded that Coventry Health Plan of Florida is Vista Health Plan, which is a national organization.

Mayor Bain asked about the deductible and if the amount was specified when the bids were solicited. His company is saving approximately 15% by increasing the deductible to \$500.00.

Mr. Shafer did not feel that raising the deductible from \$250.00 to \$500.00 would make much of a financial difference in the City's case. The committee discussed this point and determined it would only be a minor change unless the deductible was raised to \$1,000. He said that if Council were to approve the Aetna selection, they could speak with Aetna, with Council's approval, to see if they could provide further savings. There could be more savings in terms of prescription drugs or hospital plans.

City Manager Borgmann stated that in the past, RFP's were solicited for different deductible packages, but that was at a time when several companies were interested in providing proposals, which made it difficult to compare benefits. The standard plan is at the HMO level and the employees can purchase the POS by paying the difference. The Administration is recommending Aetna.

Councilman Best moved to retain Aetna as the carrier provider for the employees for the Fiscal year 2010/2011. Vice Mayor Lob seconded the motion.

City Attorney Seiden clarified that the motion should be characterized differently. Aetna is not the current provider; they are a new provider because Av-Med is the current provider. Council is approving the recommendation of the committee of the City administration to award the proposal to the lowest responsible bidder for health insurance for the City.

Councilwoman Ator asked if the award was for eleven or twelve months.

City Attorney Seiden responded that the time-period was part two. Council must first approve the bid award.

Councilman Best moved to approve Aetna for the insurance carrier for Fiscal Year 2010/2011 for the City of Miami Springs. Vice Mayor Lob seconded the motion, which was carried 5-0 on roll call vote.

City Manager Borgmann explained that normally the health insurance contract begins on November 1st and runs through November 1st of the following year, which covers one additional month across fiscal years. Recommendation “B” is to negotiate with Aetna to approve an eleven-month contract through October 1, 2011, and the future contracts will maintain an October 1st date from that point forward.

Assistant City Manager Ronald K. Gorland stated that no cost is involved, but there is a “catch”.

Mr. Shafer explained that it does not change anything going forward. The reality is that the City would be renewing one month earlier and as of October 1, 2011, the renewal would be for twelve months from that point. The City would be paying for one month at the increased rate.

Councilwoman Ator felt that it is wise to do this because there will be a true full-year when planning the budget.

Vice Mayor Lob moved to approve the recommendation for an eleven-month contract to Aetna. Councilman Espino seconded the motion.

Attorney Seiden stated that part of the motion should state “as long as there is no fiscal impact”.

Vice Mayor Lob amended his motion to say “as long as there is no fiscal impact”. He added that as long as the cost goes down it is fine.

City Manager Borgmann explained that in good faith Aetna bid a twelve-month contract and now the City will go back and try to negotiate an eleven-month contract, which shorts them one month. They may say they want additional funds to cover that month.

Attorney Seiden said that if there were any fiscal impact that it would have to come back to Council.

Consultant Shafer did not expect there would be an increase on the front end; there could be an increase on October 1, 2011. With the direction of the City Manager, he would approach Aetna to say that they were awarded the bid, but the City is looking to reduce the contract to eleven months. He will ask if this can be done without changing the numbers going forward.

City Attorney Seiden clarified that Council has approved the award of the bid. Now the motion should be to authorize the City Administration and the insurance Consultant to contact Aetna to negotiate an eleven-month policy period, rather than twelve so long as there is no fiscal detrimental effect to the City.

Assistant City Manager Gorland interjected that it would be for the upcoming fiscal year because the subsequent fiscal year will have an increase.

Vice Mayor Lob stated “so moved” and Councilman Espino seconded the motion.

City Attorney Seiden said the point is that if Council approves the contract for eleven months, the City will be bidding a new contract that will begin October 1, 2011. The bottom line is that there is a value and the City does not want Aetna to change the value per insured because they are getting one less month of premium. If they respond that they want more money then it must come back to Council.

Mr. Shafer explained that if it does not work out the contract will stay at twelve months.

The motion was carried 5-0 on roll call vote.

4. Recommendation that Council Award RFP # 11-09/10 for Debris Removal, Reduction and Disposal Services

City Manager Borgmann **pulled** the item. He explained that it will be on the agenda for the September 14, 2010 Regular Council meeting.

To answer the Mayor’s question, Mr. Borgmann stated that the contract would not have an impact on the budget; it would be for services on an “as needed” basis. Staff is trying to compare pricing that was received from thirteen different bidders against what FEMA will allow for certain types of equipment and manpower.

5. Final Budget Workshop Considerations

Finance Director Alonso clarified for Councilwoman Ator that the savings from the health insurance totaling \$95,313 reflected the difference between the 20% that was originally in the budget. He explained that it totals \$107,000 spread out among all funds; the \$95,000 savings is only the General Fund.

Finance Director Alonso stated that during the August 16th Budget Workshop Council made various adjustments to the proposed budget. Additionally, because of the health insurance issue, he was able to identify another \$95,000 in savings. He prepared a summary outlining the various cuts that were made during the various workshops and where the budget stands now.

The original budget deficit, maintaining the same millage rate as last year of 6.1698 mills, would have realized a deficit of \$1,068,122. By going with the rollback rate of 6.5888, this generated an additional \$220,270 in revenues. The elimination of the reverse 911 system saved \$11,000; replacing the two retiring police officers saved \$41,000; eliminating a Public Works' Administrative position saved \$42,000; charging a percentage of an Administrative salary to the CITT fund saved \$22,000; refinancing the Community Center loan saved \$22,700 and the health insurance savings totals \$95,000. Other departmental reductions were \$5,000 in the City Manager's budget, \$75,000 in the City Clerk's budget, \$5,000 in the Council's budget and \$19,450 in the Golf Course budget.

Mr. Alonso explained that there was a request for the purchase of a mower in recreation that originally totaled \$29,000 and the Golf Superintendent found a lower priced mower for \$16,000, which generated a savings of \$13,000. The only increase in the budget was in the Information Technology department of \$4,200 for webcasting.

Finance Director Alonso stated that all reductions totaled \$347,268, which reduced the deficit to \$500,584. Council agreed to use \$425,000 from this year's surplus and to delay the purchase of a \$60,000 telephone system and \$45,000 elevator that is included in this year's budget. This means that there is now a surplus of \$29,416 based on the millage rate of 6.5888.

Some issues were pending from the Workshop on the Recreation Department wish list including the gym floor cover, according to Mr. Alonso. He also understands that the Golf Superintendent will have a recommendation for the tees.

City Manager Borgmann stated that rebuilding the tee boxes had been on the wish list for many years and this was delayed until the new irrigation system was installed, which the Administration is bringing to Council's attention for future or further consideration.

Finance Director Alonso provided information on the remaining cuts that were originally proposed and there is a memorandum from Assistant City Manager Gorland on the Historical Museum that was requested by Mayor Bain.

Mayor Bain stated that based on the millage rate of 6.5888 there is a surplus of \$29,000. He asked what the millage rate would be if the surplus is eliminated.

Finance Director Alonso explained that he would calculate the numbers and come back with an answer to the Mayor's question.

Councilman Espino reminded the Mayor that the surplus did not take into consideration the recreation flooring or other wish list items.

Mayor Bain continued to review the list of potential reductions. He asked if the Administration had negotiated with the lobbyist to reduce the amount of the contract.

City Manager Borgmann said that in speaking with the lobbyist he agreed to reduce the price to \$46,000. This is a service that is difficult to determine when it will be needed and it could be more expensive on an hourly basis. He explained that the lobbying efforts were successful in receiving approval from the County Commission for the additional \$1MM for the Curtiss Mansion.

Mayor Bain suggested hiring the lobbyist on a six-month basis from January to June during the legislative session.

Councilman Espino considers the lobbyist and the grant writer as individuals who substantiate what they are paid. The Grant Writer raised more than enough funds to cover her salary in the first year, while the same applies to the lobbyist.

City Manager Borgmann explained that until the State law was changed, lobbyists used to work on a percentage. The same rule applies to grant writers.

Councilman Espino stated that the lobbyist provides constant support with the State legislature and the County Commission. He would not want to cut a service that could provide additional revenue.

Councilman Best felt that The Wren Group had been beneficial to the City in receiving grants over the past five years. He would accept their proposal to reduce the agreement by \$4,000 and move on.

Councilwoman Ator and Vice Mayor Lob agreed with Councilman Best to accept the agreement with The Wren Group, saving \$4,000.

In response to Mayor Bain's earlier question, Finance Director Alonso calculated that the millage rate would be 6.554 based on eliminating the \$29,000 surplus. The roll back rate is 6.5888 and the tentative millage rate is 6.9850.

Mayor Bain continued reviewing the list of proposed reductions that were originally presented by Staff. He stated that eliminating a 3% merit increase for all General Employees would save \$56,000, which he would like Council to come back to later. Council agreed to keep two Public Service Aides in the Police Department.

Finance Director Alonso stated that Council Promotions was originally budgeted at \$30,000, which was reduced to \$25,000, including \$10,000 for Circle events and \$15,000 to be used at Council's discretion. The \$6,000 donation to the Springs River Festival is also included in the total promotions account.

Mayor Bain reiterated that Council reduced their budget by \$5,000. He added that Council approved the payments to the referees. He would not want to consider a 1% pay cut across the board and Council agreed.

Mayor Bain asked to consider the proposal to eliminate 50% of dependent health care coverage for General Employees.

City Manager Borgmann explained that currently the City pays for 50% of dependent health care coverage and the employee pays 50%. Staff provided that number so that Council would know the value.

Councilman Espino asked the Mayor to mark the dependent health care coverage as an item for further consideration because it is an added benefit.

Mayor Bain explained that Council had agreed that the pool should remain open year-round. In response to Staff's suggestion to reduce the operating hours of the Community Center by closing on Sundays, he would like more information as to the amount of participation.

Parks & Recreation Director Omar Luna explained that the Center is open from 9:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. on Sundays. He confirmed that closing on Sundays would save \$20,000. He added that there is some activity on Sunday, including use of the fitness room, micro soccer, and youth basketball.

To answer Mayor Bain's question, Mr. Luna responded that opening the facility at 11:00 a.m. and closing at 5:00 p.m. on Sunday could help to reduce staff and utility costs. Council did not make a decision regarding this proposal.

Councilman Best stated that the residents receive one bulk trash pick-up per week. He asked what the savings would be if the bulk service was cut in half to twice monthly.

Public Works Director Robert Williams felt that reducing the bulk service to twice per month would not result in a significant savings. He said that once a month would make a difference in manpower.

Councilwoman Ator stated that there are some areas in the City that do not have alleys and trash would be on the street. There have been repeated complaints in regard to trash that is placed in front of apartments and this should be taken into consideration.

Finance Director Alonso explained that any savings in the Sanitation Fund would come from reducing the sanitation fees; it would not affect the millage rate.

City Manager Borgmann added that the largest expense in the Sanitation Fund is related to the equipment and the County tipping fees for disposal.

Mayor Bain commented that he received his tax bill and it reflects \$618.00 for the garbage and trash, which is due this year. In reality, the residents are paying in advance for the service. The charge has nothing to do with the millage rate.

Councilman Espino would not want to reduce the bulk trash pick-up, especially with the amount of yard waste that is generated during the summer, which could result in many complaints. He asked to consider the barrel pulling for 30% of the residents who do not have alleys.

Public Works Director Williams responded that the City staff would still have to accommodate the elderly and disabled residents who are not able to pull out their own barrels.

To answer Mayor Bain's question, Finance Director Alonso explained that placing the sanitation fees on the tax bill allowed him to cut one position for an employee that is retiring, in addition to eliminating one cashier. He added that reducing the bulk pick-up might result in a savings of \$130,000, but when this is divided by 4,000 households the savings would be less than \$34.00 annually per household.

Councilman Best explained that he brought up the idea of reducing the bulk pick-up because he was approached by many people who felt that once a week pick-up was excessive. He asked if there were peak periods when there is more trash.

Public Works Director Williams responded that the amount of trash during the summer months is much heavier. The difference between the City and the County is that Miami-Dade County provides locations where residents can take their refuse to, while the City does not.

Councilman Espino said that the sanitation service is a quality of life issue and residents should be able to regularly maintain their properties.

Mayor Bain asked about the rent subsidy to the Miami Springs Historical Society for the museum.

City Manager Borgmann met with Yvonne Shonberger who provided information that was requested. The total revenue includes \$19,200 from the City that covers the rent and electric out of the total \$27,320. Their expenses were close to \$27,000. The Historical Society is actually contributing \$8,100 to the museum operation.

Yvonne Shonberger of 85 Deer Run stated that the museum is really the City's museum and anytime they are ready to take it over they can. She explained that with the City's support they are able to make improvements by scanning documents, videotaping and recording the history. They also have a volunteer base and she would like everyone to take a tour of the museum so there is an appreciation of the history of Miami Springs.

Mayor Bain asked about \$5,000 that is budgeted for Staff and Ms. Shonberger explained that staff is paid to work the museum on Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday. Volunteers work at the museum on Sundays and during special events. She said that the Society received donations from the Town of Medley and other organizations that helped to offset the operating costs.

To answer Councilwoman Ator's question, Ms. Shonberger explained that admission is \$5.00 for adults and \$2.00 for senior citizens and children. She said that everyone who comes to the museum is on the visitor log, but not everyone pays admission. She estimated admissions at 1,000 per year or approximately 100 per month.

Councilman Best asked if the intention is to move the museum to the Curtiss Mansion once it is restored.

Ms. Shonberger responded that she had never heard a proposal from Curtiss Mansion, Inc. to take over the museum. She would hope that some day the Mansion would be able to accommodate the museum contents along with the other activities at that location.

Mayor Bain clarified that the City is paying \$19,200 per year and had subsidized the museum for the last three years. He mentioned that there was a grant that the Historical Society applied for and did not receive. He is surprised that \$5,000 is budgeted for salaries because he thought it was entirely run by volunteers.

Ms. Shonberger explained that the late John Stadnik had paid the museum curator for many years.

Councilwoman Ator felt that the Mayor is trying to substantiate what the Miami Springs Historical Society is doing to raise funds to help contribute to the museum operation, which is the same that Council had asked other organizations.

Ms. Shonberger responded that the Miami Springs Historical Society is a 501-C-3 corporation that has many fund raising projects. Any excess funds that are left after covering the basic necessities are used to improve the historical records.

City Manager Borgmann said that CMI had indicated that eventually they wanted to house exhibits displaying the history and there is space available for documents.

Councilman Espino explained that CMI's focus had been on completing the renovation of the Mansion and they are cognizant that a business plan is needed, including a variety of components. It is premature to have discussions about the historical museum.

Councilman Espino stated that because the schools are cutting back on arts and culture it would behoove Council to fund the museum this year and revisit the item next year. He would have liked to know if the landlord would be willing to reduce the rent since the Historical Society is a community organization and a stable tenant.

Ms. Shonberger explained that the landlord had not raised the rent in several years, which is \$1,100 per month; the balance of the funds covers the cost of utilities. She added that the storefront is 900 square feet and they also pay for additional storage every month.

Councilwoman Ator said that she would like to see some progress on behalf of the Historical society in the upcoming year. She would be in favor of continuing the funding with the agreement that a business plan is required. She would not want another empty storefront on Westward Drive.

Mayor Bain stated that he would like some type of commitment from the Historical Society to help with the rent and operating costs. He was surprised that \$5,000 is budgeted for payroll.

Councilman Best felt that most cities would love to have a museum to protect the history and it is something that should be appreciated.

Mayor Bain reiterated that he would like a commitment from the Historical Society on how they can help the City in this situation, because the total cost to the City is \$19,200. This should be considered when making cuts that could affect people personally. He would appreciate some type of report on the business plan for the upcoming year.

Councilman Espino agreed with Mayor Bain that the same policy should apply to all organizations that receive funding from the City. He does not want to hear complaints that Council is showing favoritism.

Councilwoman Ator mentioned that the Pelican Playhouse had presented a business plan to show how they were going to generate revenue, which had not been done with the Historical Society. This is where the line is drawn, it is advanced notice and next year when the Historical Society asks for \$19,000 she wants to see a plan.

Councilman Best said that the history of Miami Springs is different and it should be like a City department.

Ms. Shonberger felt that if the City were running the museum they would not be able to get donations and volunteers. She agreed that the museum belongs to the City and that is why it is different from other organizations that request funding.

(Agenda Item 7 was presented at 8:30 p.m. and Council returned to Item 5 at 8:49 p.m.)

Finance Director Alonso stated that the memorandum from Golf Director Mike Aldridge and Golf Superintendent Sandy Pell refers to a request from Council for additional information on the equipment she would like to replace for the Golf Course and Recreation.

Mayor Bain explained that he personally saw the equipment, which is in bad condition and they came to an agreement for a less expensive mower for the Recreation fields. He commended Ms. Pell for salvaging the old equipment for spare parts.

City Manager Borgmann stated that the original request for a mower in the amount of \$29,854 was substituted for a request for a less expensive mower for \$16,940. The capital equipment budget was reduced by \$13,000.

Golf Director Aldridge stated that the irrigation system is almost finished and the City Manager asked for an estimate of what new tees would cost. The estimate came in at \$159,000 for the renovation of existing tees and adding senior tees.

City Manager Borgmann explained that the Golf and Country Club Advisory Board had discussed a list of items to be done at the Golf Course and they held off on the tee boxes until the irrigation system was finished. The system was designed with the understanding that the tee boxes would be addressed within the next few years.

Mayor Bain suggested waiting to see how the tee boxes hold up for another year with the new irrigation system. Perhaps some of the tees could be replaced at that time.

City Manager Borgmann said that the estimate covered new tees for senior or junior golfers; it would also lengthen some of the holes to make the total course more than 7,000 yards.

Golf Director Aldridge commented that having senior tees would attract more senior players and a 7,000 yard golf course would attract more golfers.

To answer the Mayor's question, Finance Director Alonso calculated a budget surplus of \$33,416 at the roll back millage rate of 6.5888. Items still under consideration in this year's budget are the commercial area improvements and the skateboard park. The designated fund balance includes \$826,000 for the Community Center, \$280,000 for a senior center building, \$20,000 for a senior center van, \$91,936 for Downtown revitalization, \$500,000 for hurricane contingency, \$280,000 for pool improvements and \$100,000 for the Canal Street linear park. Council can decide at the end of the fiscal year what projects they want designated.

City Manager Borgmann explained that a certain amount of funds can be designated each year that would go toward funding for a specific item or project. For example, \$20,000 was never intended to be the bottom line amount for the purchase of a senior center van.

Councilwoman Ator explained that \$20,000 could be undesignated for the senior center van since the Rotary Club was awarded a grant for a new van that the City will be able to use.

City Attorney Jan K. Seiden stated that the agreement with the Rotary Club had not yet been finalized. The Florida Department of Transportation has raised a question about insurance.

Councilwoman Ator said that she would have liked the Administration to remind Council that there was \$20,000 designated when they were considering the agreement with the Rotary Club versus the outright purchase of a new van.

Mayor Bain asked Council to consider the 3% merit increase for all General employees.

Councilman Espino commented that many cities are reducing costs and fortunately the City of Miami Springs is not in a position where they have to fire employees or dramatically cut benefits. He knows of residents who work in other cities that have realized salary and benefit cuts, while Miami Springs is considering merit increases. He is a proponent of merit increases, but cannot justify giving them at this time.

Mayor Bain asked Finance Director Alonso to calculate the amount of funds that would be associated with a 3% merit increase for eligible employees.

City Manager Borgmann explained that Council could reduce the percentage for dependent coverage to less than 50%.

Councilman Espino stated that the City is not proposing to reduce the number of employees; Council is considering benefits in excess of salaries and overall the employees are treated very well.

Mayor Bain stated that the merit increases had already been reduced from 5% to 3%.

Councilwoman Ator felt that paying 50% of the dependent health coverage is a significant and important benefit for those employees with families.

Mayor Bain added that the General employees do not have the opportunity to negotiate.

Vice Mayor Lob said that the General employees depend on the City's contribution to the dependent coverage.

Public Works Director Williams explained that his employees are evaluated on their performance and he very rarely awards 5%.

Councilwoman Ator said that merit increases are made at the discretion of the Department Heads. She agrees with the Mayor that Council had already made a reduction in the percentage for the merit increases.

Human Resources Director Loretta Boucher stated that employees understand they will not receive a cost of living increase (COLA). She strongly urges Council not to cut the dependent coverage because most employees are topped out and thirty seven employees reside in the City.

City Attorney Seiden asked if the code revisions were included in the \$200,000 for commercial area improvements for N. W. 36th Street since the Clerk's budget was reduced \$75,000 for code revisions. He said that nothing would be developed on 36th Street unless the code is revised, which is very important.

Councilwoman Ator considers \$200,000 for commercial area improvements and \$247,000 for the skateboard park as designated fund balances. She would not want to put the projects aside without some discussion and notice.

Finance Director Alonso advised Council that the funds could go into surplus as part of the reserves or they can be left in the designated fund balance for the commercial area improvements and the skateboard park.

City Manager Borgmann clarified that they would be line items in the fund balance, not the budget.

Council agreed to leave the skateboard park and commercial area improvements in the fund balance.

Mayor Bain would like an ordinance or resolution that provides for a certain amount of funds to be set aside every year for the maintenance of the Community Center.

City Attorney Seiden felt that the decision would be a Council consideration that is not set by law. Even if the policy was adopted by ordinance a future Council could amend the ordinance.

Councilwoman Ator felt that it would require a Charter amendment since an ordinance could be amended.

Vice Mayor Lob agreed with the Mayor that funds should be set aside every year for the maintenance of the new Community Center because it was a major capital project.

City Manager Borgmann said that the Mayor is correct. It is similar to the sewer system that was a \$12MM asset and Council did not want to spend \$50,000 per year to maintain the system.

Finance Director Alonso stated that the water and sewer system is a perfect example because the bond required a certain amount of funds to be utilized every year for maintenance.

In regard to the initial and current financing of the Community Center there is most likely a covenant within the financing documents that requires maintenance by the city, according to Attorney Seiden. These types of things are a responsibility imposed upon government by a third party lender or bond obligation. He has never heard of a government imposing the requirement.

Councilman Espino said that it would be a value to set precedent by Council adopting a policy to set funds aside for the Community Center reserve. It is not helpful to have \$826,000 in a contingency with no direction.

Councilwoman Ator is interested in the numbers and the projections before designating funds. She would like to know the roof life, etc.

Mayor Bain asked for Council direction on the \$200,000 for the downtown improvements and \$247,000 for the skateboard park that is included in this year's budget and Council **agreed** to include the funds in the designated fund balance for future years.

Finance Director Alonso said that there was discussion at the last workshop about the gymnasium floor covering.

Councilman Best felt that \$45,000 would be money that will be well spent to protect the gym floor.

Councilman Espino stated that the gym floor covering and the registration software should have been considered when the Community Center was initially planned. He would like to pay for both items out of the contingency fund.

Councilwoman Ator agreed with Councilman Espino that she would like to fund both expenses for the floor covering and registration software.

Mayor Bain said that he would not be in favor of purchasing the software.

Councilman Espino explained that the entire package included hardware, software, training and installation, which goes to security and revenue. He reiterated that the \$85,000 expense for the gym floor covering and software should come from the contingency and the remainder of the funds should go to the undesignated fund balance.

Councilwoman Ator clarified that \$85,000 would come from the \$826,029 contingency. She also agreed that they were items that should have been included in the original cost of the Community Center.

Vice Mayor Lob was in favor of earmarking \$45,000 for the software package, even though it might cost less.

Councilwoman Ator added that the Administration could acquire bids for the two items that would be purchased from the designated fund balance.

Councilman Espino suggested designating the gym floor covering and the software package as two separate line items underneath the \$826,029.

Mayor Bain clarified that he has no problem with the gym floor covering or the revenue tracking software as long as they are line items under the \$826,029.

Council **agreed** to designate the gym floor covering and the software package as two separate line items reducing the \$826,029 to \$741,029. Council **directed** the Administration to acquire bids for both items.

Finance Director Alonso clarified that eliminating the \$33,416 budget surplus would reduce the millage rate to 6.549. Council **agreed** to leave the surplus in the fund balance and keep the millage rate at the rollback rate of 6.5888.

6. Resolution – Refinancing of the Community Center Loan

Attorney Seiden stated that Finance Director Alonso was able to secure a better deal for the Community Center refinancing and the loan will remain with the original lender. The documentation will be very close to the original document and the closing date is anticipated to be September 2, 2010.

City Attorney Jan K. Seiden read the resolution by title. The most important items for Council to review are the definitions of pledged revenue on page two. The document clarifies that it is not an ad valorem secured loan and the pledged revenues are defined as ½ cent sales tax and other monies received pursuant to that tax.

Attorney Seiden explained that the note attached as Exhibit A-2 states:

“This note does not constitute a general indebtedness of the issuer of the City within the meaning of any constitutional, statutory or charter provision or limitation, and it is expressly agreed by the holder of this note that such note holder shall never have the right to require or compel the exercise of the ad valorem taxing power of the issuer or taxation of any real or personal property therein for the payment of the principal of and interest on this note or the making of any other payments provided for in the resolution, or be entitled to payment of such note from any funds of the issuer except from the pledged revenues.”

Vice Mayor Lob moved to adopt resolution No. 2010-3486. Councilman Best seconded the motion which was carried 5-0 on roll call vote.

7. Remote Presentation from Brian Gilday of aHa Consulting on the Proposed Website Design – (8:30 p.m. – Time Certain)

Brian Gilday of aHa Consulting thanked Council for allowing him the opportunity to talk about the website during the Budget Workshop meeting and stated that he will try to limit the presentation to ten minutes.

Mr. Gilday said that his company had been working very hard to create a design for the City's website and hopefully Council had the opportunity to look at the two final concepts. The purpose of tonight's presentation is to get input on those designs in order to be able to move forward or go back to the drawing board to make additional changes.

Mr. Gilday explained that Aha was selected at the end of June for the project and quickly began working by mid-July. They conducted interviews with the various City departments and formed an advisory team composed of Vice Mayor Lob, Assistant City Manager Gorland, Public Information Specialist Carol Foster, Chief of Police Baan and I.T. Manager Jorge Fonseca. The City Manager has participated as well. Two training workshops were conducted to teach staff how to use the website and the advisory team focused on the website design and what should be included.

The advisory team agreed that the website needed to capture a modern as well as a vintage feel in order to maintain the City's charm, to leverage the new City logo and slogan, incorporate green and to showcase different photos in a rotating banner, according to Mr. Gilday. The home page would have a link to a virtual historic tour of sites.

For the past three weeks, Mr. Gilday has been working on several design concepts and two subsequent meetings were held with the advisory teams to go over the concepts. Seven initial designs were narrowed down to two designs and this will be the third round of changes.

Mr. Gilday presented the first design that captures the vintage feel of the City and also offers small details to bring out a fresh website design unlike most city websites. The banner is a montage of photographs which will rotate. A photographer is proposed to be hired as part of the historic sites project and those photographs will be included within the banner. This website design is classic and has a vintage feel.

The second design is more modern and has less of a vintage look, according to Mr. Gilday. There is less detail and more focus on a clean design in the banner. It has the same elements of the first design, including the same montage of photographs, links and different sections. He asked if Council had a preference of one of the two final designs or if they wanted to go back to the drawing board. A selection of one of the two designs would allow him to move forward quickly.

To answer Councilwoman Ator's question, Mr. Gilday responded that the photographs would not be in flash; they are using Java script and the City would easily be able to change the banners.

Councilman Espino likes the designs because they are simple and elegant. They have an older look with modern amenities. He does not have an opinion about the olive green or beige background and he likes the cross section of photographs.

To answer Councilman Espino's question, Mr. Gilday explained that the photographs will rotate automatically. The overall banner could be clicked on to provide a link to another page on the website. The user will be able to rotate through the photographs if they do not want to wait for the automatic rotation.

Councilman Espino commented that he could appreciate the more modern, simplistic design, but he finds it to be unfinished.

Mayor Bain felt that both designs were old fashioned and did not reflect what is new within the City.

Vice Mayor Lob explained that the photographs were only samples to show what the design will look like.

Councilman Espino stated that form determines function and the problem with the City's current website is that the form and access to information is lacking. The ability to change and update the current website is non-existent.

Councilwoman Ator said that she likes the layout of the white design better than the other design.

In his opinion, Mr. Gilday said that the classic design is his preference because it is more polished and elegant. In terms of the content area, this is simple to change out and this is the type of detail work that he can be adjusted after the initial site is up.

Mr. Gilday explained that if Council were to agree on the classic design, he could provide another version to the advisory team who would forward it to Council. The main content area could be revised taking into consideration comments made by Councilwoman Ator.

Council **agreed** that Mr. Gilday should present another variation to the advisory team with a change in the layout of the design based on Council's comments.

Mr. Gilday asked for specific direction in regard to the different versions of greens because it would impact the design of the images.

Councilman Espino stated that the beige background allows the green to stand out more. He asked if it would be possible to bring back both color renditions of the new version.

Mr. Gilday **agreed** to provide one or two sets of versions utilizing both shades of greens and once Council feels comfortable he will then move forward. He complimented the City staff for their hospitality during his visit to the City. He is very excited about the finished product and the target date for completion is the beginning of October.

Council returned to discussion of Agenda Item 5 at 8:49 p.m.

8. Adjourn.

There being no further business to be discussed the meeting was adjourned at 9:52 p.m.

Billy Bain
Mayor

ATTEST:

Magalí Valls, CMC
City Clerk

Approved as written during meeting of: 9/14/2010.

Transcription assistance provided by Suzanne S. Hitaffer